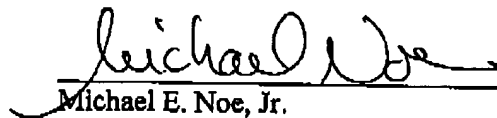


REMARKS

Applicant certainly appreciates the allowance of Claims 9 – 19, and the suggestions offered by the Examiner to overcome the objections to Claims 5 – 8. Accordingly, Claim 1 was rewritten with the language of canceled Claim 5. Claim 6 was amended to depend from Claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No fee for an extension of time or other fees are believed to be required. However, in the event that one or more fees are required, please charge them to Hitachi Global Storage Technologies' Deposit Account Number 50-2587.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael E. Noe, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,975
BRACEWELL & PATTERSON, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 61389
Houston, Texas 77208-1389
(512) 472-7800

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS